Maryland
Former NSWC White Oak

Facility and Location

This facility is a former Navy owned and operated laboratory for naval surface warfare research. The Former Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) White Oak operated as a principle weapons research and development laboratory from the mid-1940s through 1997, when naval operations ceased. In September 1995, this facility was selected for closure under the Base Realignment and Closure program. The Navy transferred 662 acres to the General Services Administration on October 18, 1997. The remaining 48 acres were transferred to the Army on February 2, 1998.

Media Sampled and Findings

Groundwater — In 2011, 6 of 21 samples detected perchlorate from 0.05 to 0.19 ppb. In 2009, 12 of 12 samples detected perchlorate from 0.12 to 0.25 ppb. In 2008, 45 of 50 samples detected perchlorate from 0.06 to 26 ppb. In 2007, 27 of 28 samples detected perchlorate from 0.06 to 85 ppb. Prior to 2007, 378 of 1,261 samples detected perchlorate form 0.06 to 880 ppb.
Soil — Prior to 2007, 19 of 26 samples detected perchlorate from 11 to 1,400 ppb.
Surface Water — Prior to 2007, 11 of 50 samples detected perchlorate form 0.5 to 8.52 ppb.
Wastewater — Prior to 2007, six samples reported no detection.

Appropriate Actions

Groundwater samples were above the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb. Soil concentrations were below the 55,000 ppb residential but below the 720,000 ppb industrial soil screening levels recommended by EPA Region III.

Former NSWC White Oak has received a number of Record of Decisions (RODs). The RODs primarily address other key contaminants but the treatment systems put in place, such as the enhanced in situ bioremediation, for the primary chemicals of concern (trichloroethylene and its daughter products) will also degrade perchlorate. Concentrations of perchlorate are no longer above EPA/DoD Preliminary Remediation Goals at some sites. All actions have been coordinated with EPA Region III and Maryland Department of the Environment. Both agencies concurred with the remediation goal for perchlorate.